

NAME:

DATE:

CLASS:

The Necklace LITERARY ANALYSIS: CHARACTERIZATION

Writers communicate what characters are like through **characterization**. There are two main types of characterization:

- **Direct characterization:** The writer tells readers what a character is like.
- **Indirect characterization:** The writer gives readers clues to a character. The writer might show the character's behavior, present the character's words and thoughts, describe the character's physical appearance, or reveal what other characters say or think about the character. Often, when a writer uses indirect characterization, it is up to the reader to draw logical conclusions about the character's personality and motivations.

PART I. DIRECTIONS: *On the lines provided, CIRCLE if the excerpt is an example of Direct or Indirect characterization, identify which character is being described, and then explain why it is that type of characterization.*

1. She suffered constantly, feeling that all the attributes of a gracious life, every luxury, should rightly have been hers.

(DIRECT) or (INDIRECT)

CHARACTER BEING DESCRIBED _____

CHARACTERIZATION EXPLANATION: _____

**2. She looked at him, irritated, and said impatiently:
"I haven't a thing to wear. How could I go?"**

(DIRECT) or (INDIRECT)

CHARACTER BEING DESCRIBED _____

CHARACTERIZATION EXPLANATION: _____

3. "Well, all right, then. I'll give you four hundred francs. But try to get something really nice."

(DIRECT) or (INDIRECT)

CHARACTER BEING DESCRIBED _____

CHARACTERIZATION EXPLANATION: _____

4. ... said in a faintly waspish tone: "You could have brought it back a little sooner! I might have needed it."

(DIRECT) or (INDIRECT)

CHARACTER BEING DESCRIBED _____

CHARACTERIZATION EXPLANATION: _____

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The Necklace Open-Book Quiz

DIRECTIONS: *Identify the letter of the choice that best answers the question.*

1. Which city is the setting for “The Necklace”?

- A. London
- B. Paris
- C. Rome
- D. New York

2. At the beginning of the story, what is the cause of Madame Loisel’s constant unhappiness?

- A. her marriage
- B. her desire to be wealthy
- C. her poor health
- D. her wish for more friends

3. What literary technique is illustrated by this passage from Maupassant’s story?

She would have so loved to charm, to be envied, to be admired and sought after.

- A. irony
- B. symbolism
- C. direct characterization
- D. indirect characterization

4. What conclusion might you draw about Madame Loisel’s character, based on the life she wants to live?

- A. She enjoys working.
- B. She has simple needs.
- C. She cares most about her relationships.
- D. She cares most about material things

5. What conclusion can you draw about Monsieur Loisel, based on his treatment of his wife?

- A. He cares a lot about his wife’s happiness.
- B. He has grown tired of his wife’s complaints.
- C. He cares too much about unimportant things.
- D. He enjoys accompanying his wife to fancy receptions.

6. Which of the following is a direct effect of Madame Loisel’s loss of the necklace?

- A. a bitter quarrel with Madame Forestier
- B. divorce from Monsieur Loisel
- C. the couple’s move from the city to the countryside
- D. a life of poverty and hard physical labor

7. Choose the order in which these events happen in Maupassant’s story.

- I. Madame Loisel borrows the necklace.
- II. Madame Loisel runs into Madame Forestier on the Champs Elysées.
- III. Monsieur Loisel receives an invitation for a reception at the Ministry.
- IV. Madame Loisel writes her friend a letter to explain the delay in returning the necklace.

- A. IV, I, III, II
- B. III, I, IV, II
- C. III, II, I, IV
- D. II, IV, I, III

8. Which of the following literary elements is prominent in the story’s ending?

- A. metaphor
- B. irony
- C. flashback
- D. point of view